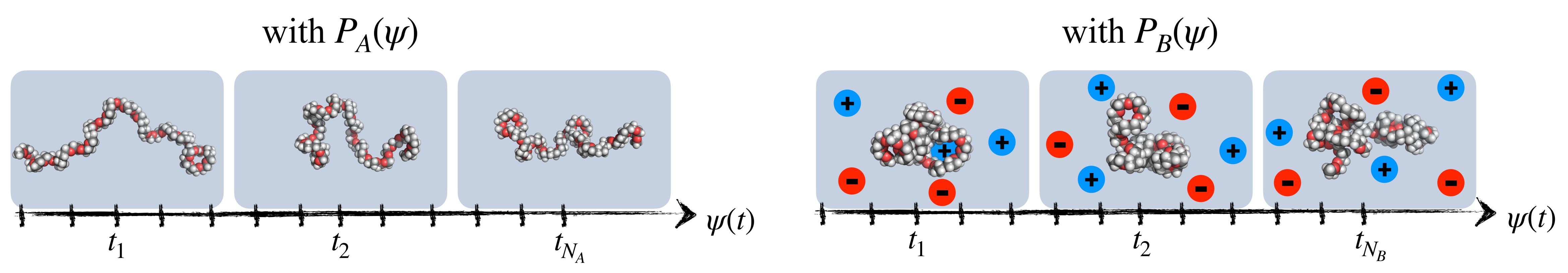
Step 1: Generation of ensembles of solute structures  $\psi$ 



**Step 2:** Generation of solvent configurations in the presence of rigid solute and calculations of the solvation free energies



Step 3: Calculations of  $\Delta \mu^{\rm ex}$  and its upper and lower bounds

$$\sum_{\psi \in A} \mathcal{F} \left( \Delta \nu^{\text{solv}}(\psi) - \Delta \mu^{\text{ex}} \right) = \sum_{\psi \in B} \mathcal{F} \left( -\Delta \nu^{\text{solv}}(\psi) + \Delta \mu^{\text{ex}} \right)$$

$$\Delta \mu_{\text{upper}}^{\text{ex}} = \frac{1}{N_A} \sum_{\psi_i \in A, i=1}^{N_A} \Delta \nu^{\text{solv}}(\psi_i)$$

$$\Delta \mu_{\text{lower}}^{\text{ex}} = \frac{1}{N_B} \sum_{\psi_i \in B, i=1}^{N_B} \Delta \nu^{\text{solv}}(\psi_i)$$